

## Iron County Register.

By E. D. AKE.

IRONTON, MISSOURI.

### THE TIDE.

The tide runs down into the sea.  
At pace no human power can stem,  
But wait a bit and thou shalt see  
The tide a quick return again.  
So runs the tide of life indeed,  
Sometimes its rapid downward sweep  
Gains as it goes at awful speed—  
But who can say its course will keep?  
And who can say the whirling soul,  
Replete with error though it be,  
Will not at last reach fairer goal  
Than that which seems its destiny?

Too late! Since downward sweep's de-  
fin'd  
Oh, say not so, unkindly word!  
The tide may change, as God is kind.  
And little while man has downward  
hur'd!  
Aye, man has downward hur'd! but he  
Refuses aid to drowning good—  
Submerged far more as it doth seem  
No help to fight, if fight it would,  
No one to give a helping hand,  
All going by the other way.  
Oh, help the fallen one to stand,  
Nor simply far off for him pray!

Come near and next the gasping form  
Would'd in the torrent of sin,  
Teach him that hope is forlorn,  
Although the stream he cannot swim.  
Aye, foil the tide! 't is seen hard  
For it seems harder than it is,  
The proffer'd hand may save the mar-  
r'd!  
There is no miracle in this!  
—Lawrence F. Deutman, in N. Y. Ob-  
server.

## HER FINAL DECISION.

By MARGUERITE STABLER.

NOWHERE, perhaps, in this com-  
pact, crowded country is the nation  
within a nation, the city within a city,  
the wheel within a wheel, so complete  
as in the little Italy of San Francisco.  
Here not only are the people, the lan-  
guage, the religion, the manners and  
customs, but even the trades, with the  
tricks thereof, as essentially Italian as  
if the intervening seas were but a  
dream. A wall might be built around  
this quarter and the denizens of the  
district be no more effectively cut off  
from their neighbors than they now  
are by their interests and sym-  
pathies. In this far-away country there  
seems to exist among a sort of  
climatic kinship amounting almost to  
the strength of a blood-tie, so that they  
live among themselves and to them-  
selves. It is probably for this reason  
that the Italian girls seldom marry  
out of their class or even out of their  
district, for she who would marry a  
foreigner, especially an American,  
would run the risk of losing caste and  
being edged out of the quarter.

The invasion that cannot be  
beaten back by racial prejudice is the  
effect of the new-world climate and  
civilization upon the Italian type of  
beauty. The Californian winds and  
sun add to the languorous eye a bril-  
liancy, the languid grace an energy,  
that while the dreamy beauty of the  
Raphael Madonna type is lost, the glow-  
ing grace of a Botticelli Singing Angel  
is gained in its stead.

When the Signora Alvarado was sent  
to this coast to represent his country,  
he did not count on the effect of the  
American influence upon his own  
household. So when his little Na-  
talia grew from a shy Italian child in-  
to a lovely Latin-American girlhood,  
he ascribed her divergence from the  
accepted type to every cause but the  
right one, nature. The mother of Na-  
talia detected a still more insidious  
change in her daughter's character, a  
certain impatience of parental control,  
which was always climatic, because of  
the energy the bracing winds put into  
her spirit. Neither parent, however,  
realized the dangerous charm of their  
daughter until a duel was narrowly  
averted in their own house.

Then, collapsing into a fit of hy-  
sterics, the signora charged upon the  
whole matter to Providence, and be-  
wailed the injustice of its workings.  
"Why, oh, why," she wailed, "should  
Providence have afflicted me with such  
a wicked, willful, undutiful daughter?"  
And the sympathizing friends, who  
stood around with fans and restora-  
tives, echoed, "Why, indeed?" Then  
seeing her distress made her the cen-  
ter of attraction, the afflicted mother  
went off again into sobs and shrieks  
till the nerves of the bystanders were  
wrought up to almost as high a state  
as her own.

"It's all right," he said, "at least un-  
til this evening. Caspar is under  
guard with two men sitting on his  
chest, and the American is cooling off  
in his own quarters. I have pledged  
them my word that Natalia shall set-  
tle the affair to-night. Where is she?"

On the instant a chorus of eager  
voices called, "Oh Natalia, Natalia,  
your father wants you!" while a rush  
was made to the hall to see how she  
would take it.

"Are they dead?" a shaken voice  
faltered from the landing. No one had  
thought of following the girl when  
she fled from the room, and her mother's  
despair.

"Do you realize, my daughter, that you  
narrowly escaped being the cause  
of the death of both these men?" be-  
gan the signora in thundering tones.  
"If I had not been here to come be-  
tween them, and thereby imperil my  
own life, their blood would have been  
upon your head."

"And all because of your wicked dis-  
obedience in wasting your time on that  
terrible American when you knew Cas-  
par was in love with you," interposed  
the mother, tearfully.

"And encouraging both of them at  
the same time," interrupted the father,  
while the mother stopped to take a  
long breath.

"And engaging yourself to them  
both, as I am led to believe," the sig-  
nora began with a fresh start.

"Knowing the consequences could  
be nothing but disastrous to all con-  
cerned," finished the indignant sig-  
nora.

The girl made a deprecating gesture,  
and turned as if to leave the room, but  
her father's stern tones arrested her.

"Is it true, as Thompson tells me,  
that you promised to marry him?" he  
questioned.

The girl's eyes dropped before his  
charge, but she nodded assent.

"And isn't it equally true that you  
promised Caspar last week that you  
would marry him?" chimed in the  
mother with a volley of tears.

The drooping little target of these  
accusations suggested at the moment  
anything but a wicked, willful, undutiful  
daughter. With no attempt at  
self-justification, she meekly acquiesced  
to all they said, casting furtive glances  
toward the door.

"This, then, is the last of your tri-  
fling." The signora's tones were as  
measured and formal as if she were pro-  
nouncing a death sentence. "Both  
Caspar and Thompson have promised  
to keep their hands off each other's  
throat to-night, but only on condition  
that they have your decision before ten  
o'clock."

"And you will wear Signora Caspar's  
camellias to-night, won't you, daugh-  
ter?" pleaded the little signora,  
changing her tactics.

Under cover of this temporary truce  
the culprit made her escape. Alone  
again in her room, the cause of all  
this trouble sank into a limp little  
heap upon the floor, and waited for the  
earth to open at her feet and swallow  
her. But after an hour or two of pa-  
tient waiting, the clock on the mantel  
ticked off eight hours and admonished  
her that, since the earth showed no  
sign of coming to her rescue, she had  
only two hours in which to decide this  
momentous question and make herself  
ready for the ordeal of meeting her  
parents' usual Thursday evening guest.

This was the first crisis she had ever  
had to face with her own judgment.  
Heretofore blind impulse had swept her  
along well enough, but it was this blind  
impulse that had at last brought all  
this trouble upon her.

When Thompson, who was so fine  
looking after his blond American type,  
had asked her under the soft mellow  
moonlight to be his wife, her impulse  
at that moment had been that life could  
offer no finer thing, so she had  
told him so promptly and heartily. And  
when a few days later she had met  
Caspar on her way from vespers, when  
the autumn sunset glow tinged all the  
world with a tender rosy hue, and  
after telling her how lonely  
some this life was to him away  
from his own people, he had  
asked her to be his wife, following a  
swift impulse of sympathy and forget-  
ting for the moment everything but  
the compelling earnestness of his eyes,  
she had told him "yes."

And now she was reaping the reward  
of her lack of stability of character.  
These two men had almost killed each  
other for her sake, and her mother  
had almost died of the shock. It would  
have been a just retribution, she told  
herself, if she had lost them all and  
every other friend she had ever had.  
Great waves of contrition surged over  
her soul till she was ready to do  
anything, make any sacrifice, to undo  
as far as possible the harm she had  
done.

"Povero padre!" she sighed, recall-  
ing her father's anxiety to hush up the  
affair and meet his guests as if nothing  
had happened. She lighted the  
candle that flanked her mirror and  
began slowly taking the pins out of her  
hair, thinking the while, more earn-  
estly, as seriously than she had  
ever done in her life. As the  
dusky shower fell over her shoulders,  
her miserable, sad-eyed pic-  
ture that, with an upward glance of  
the eyes and a more resigned expres-  
sion, might have done for a Mater  
Dolorosa.

But it was always diverting to def-  
fingers to fashion puffs and ringlets,  
especially when the result is so em-  
inently satisfactory. By the time the  
last hair-pin was tucked out of sight,  
and the last artificial curl allowed to  
stray at just the right angle, the eyes  
in the mirror had lost much of their  
sadness. The camellias—stiff, pale,  
senseless things—were not easy to ar-  
range, and required much coaxing to  
induce them to nestle contentedly in  
her locks. The foliage was stiff and  
the stems woody, and somewhere there  
was an uncomfortable pull in her hair.  
She did not care, however. She would  
gladly have worn a crown of thorns at  
that moment, in expiation of her reck-  
lessness.

She held her head a trifle higher  
and her shoulders just a wee bit  
straighter as the meaning of the cam-  
ellias grew upon her. Of course she  
loved Caspar, and would never dream  
of marrying anyone else. Her mother,  
she knew, would be happy when she  
saw his flowers in her hair. She was  
happy, too, because she was doing her  
duty. It was so nice to be good. She  
wondered how she ever could have  
been so headstrong and reckless. Since  
the horror of this afternoon's barely  
averted tragedy, her other self—the  
obedient, fickle girl—seemed centuries  
behind her. She nodded almost gaily  
to the pale-faced reflection in her mir-  
ror with its crown of white camellias.

It was almost ten o'clock. A tap  
came at her door. "The signora says  
you will have some notes to be sent,"  
came the voice of old Alfredo.

To be sure. Seizing her pen she be-  
gan to write. Her hands trembled so  
from the recent shock she could not  
do it. Besides she had not time to  
say what she wanted to say. "Alfredo  
shall take my message," she said to  
herself. Still, Alfredo was old and for-  
getful; he might make a mistake.

"In a minute, Alfredo," she called,  
seizing one of the roses that stood in  
the window. "This," she said, "will  
tell better than a message or a note.  
He will know when he sees this red  
rose that my answer is 'yes,' and that  
I love him."

Selecting from the bunch a great  
rich velvety beauty that lay against

her cheek like a glowing, beating heart,  
and almost seemed to throb with the  
intensity of its life, she kissed it, and  
turned to give it to her messenger.

But, as she turned, the card that  
had been sent with them fluttered to  
the floor. "Mr. John Harrison Thomp-  
son" it read, as if in silent appeal for  
the discarded one. Something in the  
injustice of sending Thompson's rose  
as an answer to Caspar arrested her.

They had been meant to convey the  
same message of undying love to her.  
"Poor Jack," she whispered. Then rais-  
ing her eyes to the window where the  
soft moonlight streamed over the floor,  
"It was just such a night that I—that he  
—"

She did not dare to finish the  
thought for fear the memory of that  
night would break down her dutiful  
resolve. Still, just for the sake of the  
argument, she mused, suppose that she  
had chosen Jack. Her parents, she  
knew, would never hear to such a  
thing, but suppose that, as Jack had  
planned, they had run away. Little  
rills and thrills of excitement quiv-  
ered through her frame at the mere  
fancy. It had all been so delicious to  
plan! Then, as the wife of an Ameri-  
can signora, she would live in the  
American part of the town, meet Ameri-  
can people, travel, perhaps, over the  
great American continent, and come in  
time to be herself almost American.

That had been her dearest dream.  
Turning to light another gas jet, she  
struck a match on the sole of her slip-  
per—a thing no well-conducted  
Italian girl would ever think of do-  
ing, but having once seen it done on  
the stage, she deemed it a national  
habit.

Another tap at the door. "Is the  
signora's note ready?" asked Al-  
fredo.

She had forgotten all about her an-  
swer in her reverie.

"In a minute, Alfredo," she an-  
swered again, as she cast about for  
some token for Thompson. She could  
not bring herself to pen the cruel  
words, for he had believed so confi-  
dently in her. She might take one of  
the stiff, scentless white things she  
had in her hair to send him. She  
laughed a hard little laugh at the  
mockery of exchanging her flowers.  
He could not fail to understand its  
meaning. It would be the admission  
of the white feather, and the cold,  
scentless thing would tell him as well  
as any words that her love for him was  
dead. Well, she would choose as small  
a one as she could to make the hurt as  
small as possible. Poor Jack! She  
would probably never see him again,  
he would some day forget her and  
marry some one else, but she would  
always go on loving him because she  
could not help it.

"Natalia, Natalia!" came the sig-  
nora's voice from the hall.

"In a minute," she answered nerv-  
ously. "It must be ten o'clock."

"Run every step of the way, Alfre-  
do!" she commanded the stiff old ser-  
vant, as if it were through his fault that  
she was late. "It is almost ten now, and  
you must not be late."

"Oh, my dear daughter," the little  
signora murmured, weeping anew at  
the sight of Caspar's camellias, this  
time for joy, "I knew all the time that  
you would make the right choice. You  
are too much your mother's own  
daughter not to see the right course  
at last." And drawing her tall daughter's  
face down to a level with her own,  
she kissed her tenderly.

The old signora also drew her aside,  
and whispered: "I am glad to forgive  
all the past anxiety your foolishness  
has given us, in my content at knowing  
you have at last decided, and so wisely."

"The girl's eyes beamed with happi-  
ness all evening. Not a trace of the  
storm-clouds that had darkened her  
eyes a few hours before was left. The  
guests that came anticipating new re-  
velations of the rumored scene were  
amazed to receive the announcement  
of the betrothal of Natalia to her fa-  
ther's friend, Caspar.

"It must have been a mistake," they  
began to whisper in disappointed tones.  
Natalia, although she felt a battery  
of curious eyes always upon her, re-  
ceived the congratulations of her friends  
with a serene smile, and a petting  
or any component part thereof above  
provided she was guilty of perjury.

The vote of the people shall not be  
exercised as to the laws approved  
or enacted by the general assembly  
amendment shall not be construed so  
as to deprive the general assembly of  
the right to propose any law or other  
measure or the legislature of the right to  
propose any law or other measure.

All provisions of the constitution of this  
state and all laws thereof not consist-  
ent with the amendment to article IV,  
as adopted, be forever rescinded and of no  
effect.

THIRD CONSTITUTIONAL AMEND-  
MENT.—Joint and concurrent resolution  
submitting to the qualified voters of the  
state of Missouri an amendment to the  
constitution of the State of Mis-

There is one word you will hear in  
England all the time wherever you go  
—the word holiday. All England, win-  
ter, spring, summer and autumn, talks  
holiday. Holiday, I ask myself, from  
what? Judged even by the most easy-  
going of American standards, life in  
England seems pretty well all holiday,  
and the annual August respite from  
work rather a culmination than an ex-  
ception. Take an American, of what-  
ever trade or profession, dump him  
down on England, and his first im-  
pression and his last will be, "These  
people do not know what work is."

Everything is against their knowing  
it. It is the leisure class that rules,  
that makes up society, that holds all  
the positions men naturally covet. I  
thought it not untypical of Eng-  
land when, being in a town of 7,000  
or 8,000 inhabitants the other after-  
noon, I tried and failed to buy a golf-  
ing cap. The reason was that it was  
Thursday afternoon, and Thursday in  
that particular town is "early-closing"  
day, and early-closing day means that  
at two o'clock in the afternoon every  
shop is closed and business at an end.

Emphatically we take things easily  
over here.—Harper's Weekly.

When a "gag" is a Vested Right.  
When a "gagging" wife drives a  
man to distraction it is his privilege  
to go out and get drunk if he thinks  
that thereby he may gain solace and  
peace. That, at least, is the opinion of  
Judge Sulzer, handed down in the case  
of *Liquor Memner*, who was charged by  
his wife with neglecting to provide  
for his children.

In his decision Judge Sulzer put  
himself on record emphatically for the

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF MISSOURI

FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL AMEND-  
MENT.—Joint and concurrent resolution  
submitting to the qualified voters of the  
state of Missouri an amendment to the  
constitution of the State of Missouri  
thereof.

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House  
of Representatives concurring therein:  
That at the general election to be held  
on Tuesday next following the first  
Monday in November, 1904, the following  
amendment to section IV of article IV of  
the constitution of the State of Missouri  
concerning the relief of members of police  
departments in cities having one hundred  
thousand inhabitants or more, who may  
become disabled, crippled or superannu-  
ated, and their widows and minor  
children after their decease, and of the  
widows and minor children of deceased  
members of police departments in such  
cities, shall be submitted to the qualified  
voters of said state, to wit:

Section IV of article IV of the con-  
stitution be amended by adding thereto  
the following words, to wit: "and pro-  
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